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Transitions to host Motivational Speaker John Robinson on May 20, 2015, Ticket Proceeds to Benefit Transitions Scholarship Fund

Motivational speaker and Our Ability CEO John Robinson to present his inspirational story about achieving success.

GLOVERSVILLE, N.Y. – Transitions has announced that John Robinson, managing partner and CEO of Our Ability, will give two presentations to the public on May 20. The first will be at 9:30 a.m. at The Center at Lexington, 465 N. Perry St., Johnstown, and the other 6:30 p.m. at Transitions, 2736 State Highway 30, Gloversville. Robinson’s presentation, Transforming Obstacles into Opportunities, is an incredible and inspirational story of self-discovery and overcoming difficulties in all aspects of life.

Robinson was born a congenital amputee and stands 3’9” tall. His arms stop at the elbow with no hands and his lower legs are attached to his hips without knees. Despite being forced to live in a world that isn’t designed for him, Robinson has used faith, talent and pure determination to thrive in the business world and in his family life. Hearing how he overcame all his difficulties, struggling to accomplish what many would consider simple tasks but accomplishing them all the same, will teach audience the true meaning of following their dreams.

In addition to advocating for diversity inclusion and delivering personalized training for organizations at Our Ability, Robinson gives motivational and inspirational speeches to audiences all over the U.S. He is the author of “Get Off Your Knees: A Story of Faith, Courage, and Determination,” an autobiography published by Syracuse University Press. In 2009, he was the subject of a documentary aired on PBS, also called “Get Off Your Knees.” He carried the Olympic torch through Albany in 2001 and was named a White House Disability Employment Champion of Change in 2014.

In the summers of 2013 and 2014, Robinson, along with Doug Hamlin, a quadriplegic, led the “Our Ability Journey Along the Erie Canal,” a 12-day, 350-mile bike ride from Tonawanda to Albany. Their journey raises awareness about helping individuals with disabilities achieve their
highest and best aspirations for education and employment. The journey also raises funds for adaptive sports, education and employment support programs for people with disabilities in New York State. They plan to embark on their inspirational journey again this summer, from June 28 - July 10.

When he’s not working or making appearances, the Syracuse University graduate lives in Albany with his wife of more than 21 years and their three children. Robinson’s success despite the obstacles he’s faced demonstrates to everyone, disabilities or none, that anyone can achieve the apparently impossible with the help of a good education, some caring people and fierce determination.

Robinson’s presentations are open to the public. Tickets are $45 each and all proceeds will benefit the Transitions Scholarship Fund, a fund set up to help students pay for tuition to Transitions, a supportive apprenticeship program for young adults with learning differences. Students who attend the program will learn skills to help them adjust to college, the workforce and independent living.

Audience members are also welcome to take tours of the Transitions facility at 11:15 a.m. and 5:45 p.m. Those who take a tour and apply for admission to Transitions will have the $100 application fee waived.

For more information and to register to attend, please visit transitionsusa.org/events.

About Transitions
Transitions is a supportive Apprenticeship for young men and women with autism spectrum disorders including Asperger’s syndrome, ADHD, dyslexia, nonverbal learning disabilities, visual or hearing impairments, medical conditions and other learning differences who want to attend college and/or prepare for a career, but may require academic, social, medical and/or emotional support.

The Transitions program’s curriculum focuses on building academic, employment, life and general independence skills. Both full-year College and Career Apprenticeship programs are offered, as well as a three-week Summer Immersion Experience. Visit www.transitionsusa.org for more information.